



George R. Nethercutt, Jr.

223 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-2006 Fax: 202-225-3392

e-mail: www.house.gov/nethercutt/contact

Proudly representing Eastern Washington in the United States House of Representatives.

EASTERN WASHINGTON LOSES ONE OF ITS OWN

by Representative George R. Nethercutt, Jr.

This week the war in Afghanistan took on a personal note as Eastern Washington lost a native son. Sgt. Nathan P. Hays was among the seven marines who perished in the crash of a KC-130 Hercules refueling plane in Pakistan. The aircraft was destined for a forward operating base at Shamsi, Pakistan, on Wednesday night when it crashed.

As a parent, I can imagine nothing more painful than losing a child. Nathan's service and sacrifice to his country are appreciated by all of Eastern Washington.

While so far the loss of life in this war effort has been minimal, each American life that is lost is one too many. Men and women of our area are overseas risking their lives to defend the freedoms that we enjoy each day. Each of us should take time to share our appreciation with a service member or veteran. Their dedication and commitment to our freedom preserves our way of life.

In some ways, the war in Afghanistan is so far away. Unfortunately, this crash brought it home for all of us. I join many others in extending my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Nathan Hays as they endure this tragedy and celebrate his life. May God Bless his soul.

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